

***Lepanthes croatii* Luer, sp. nov.**

Ety.: Named for Thomas C. Croat, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, collector of this species.

Species haec *Lepanthidis crista-piscibus* Luer similis, sed habitu minore folio ovato acuto, racemo brevissimo recurvo et sepalis lateralibus non-plicatis differt.

Plant small, epiphytic, caespitose; roots slender. Ramicauls erect, slender, 3-6 cm long, enclosed by 4-6 microscopically ciliate lepanthiform sheaths. **Leaf** erect, coriaceous, elliptical, acute, 3-4 cm long, 1-1.5 cm wide, cuneate below into a petiole 2-3 mm long. **Inflorescence** 2-3 erect, congested, curved, successively many-flowered racemes, up to 4 cm long, including the peduncle ca. 20 mm long; floral bracts 1 mm long, denticulate; pedicels 1.5 mm long; ovary 0.75-1 mm long; **sepals** with color unknown, ovate, acute, entire, the dorsal sepal 3.5 mm long, 3 mm wide, the lateral sepals 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, 2-veined, connate less than 1 mm; **petals** transversely bilobed, oblong, 1 mm long, 4 mm wide, glabrous, the upper lobe oblong with the tip rounded, 2 mm long, the lower lobe narrowly triangular, narrowly obtuse, 1.5 mm long; **lip** glabrous, the blades elliptical, 1.5 mm long, with narrowly obtuse ends, the connectives narrow from the center of the blade, connate to the column above the base, the appendix oblong, ciliate, 0.5 mm long, with a round, concave, terminal lobule; **column** 1.5 mm long, the anther and stigma apical.

Cochabamba: between Cochabamba and Villa Tunari, near Hotel Caballeros, altitude not given, 21 Nov. 1980, T. Croat 51334 (Holotype of *L. croatii*: MO), C. Luer illustr. 21488.

This species is known from a single collection in lowland, central Bolivia. It is characterized by a congested raceme borne by a peduncle about half the length of an elliptical leaf. The sepals are ovate, acute and entire; the petals are transversely oblong and glabrous; the blades of the lip are elliptical and also glabrous, but a comparatively large, oblong appendix is ciliate.

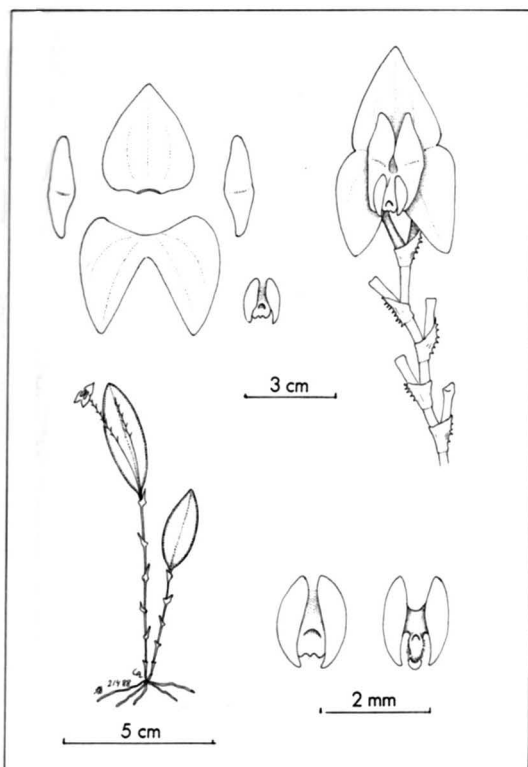


Fig. 16. *Lepanthes croatii*